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Fund, for developing handloom industry. The Schemes formulated by this Government to utilize the amount have been approved by them. Grants of rebate on the purchase of handloom cloth is one of these schemes.

(*b*) Sales of handloom cloth have been exempted from Sales Tax with effect from 1st April 1954. As regards assistance to the handloom industry the attention of the member is invited to the answer given on 23rd March 1954 to question No. 219 (starred) by Sri N. K. Palanisami, M.L.A.''

Construction of a side wall on the bridge across the River Vaigai at Paramakudi.

* 984 *Q.*—SRI G. GOVINDAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to construct side walls on the submergible bridge across the River Vaigai at Paramakudi for the safety of vehicular traffic; and

(*b*) if so, when the work is likely to be taken up for execution?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Sir, the answer to the question is not yet ready.''

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR :—" On a point of order, Sir, நான் ஒரு ஒழுங்குப் பிரச்சினையை எழுப்புகிறேன். கேள்விக்குப் பதில் இன்னும் வராதபோது அது எப்படி கேள்வித் தாளில் சேர்க்கப்பட்டது என்று கேட்கிறேன்.''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, for all the questions which have been placed for answering to-day, the replies were ready and despatched to the Legislature Secretariat, but the Minister did not get sufficient notice and did not get the file from his office. That is the main difficulty.''

Death due to cancer.

* 985 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to deal with cases of Cancer; and

(*b*) the number of persons reported to have died on account of Cancer in this State in 1953?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The Barnard Institute of Radiology, Government General Hospital, Madras, is equipped with all the modern X-ray therapy equipments and has also about 1,400 mgm. of radium for the treatment of cancer cases. In this hospital, one hundred beds are set apart for cancer patients. In the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Madras a Cancer ward of one hundred beds has been constructed. This hospital has been provided with Deep-X-ray therapy apparatus and sufficient radium for the treatment of Cancer cases. The Erskine Hospital, Madurai, has been equipped with a Deep-X-ray therapy apparatus to deal with Cancer cases.

" (*b*) Two hundred and eighty-two, Sir.''